[English]

Indo-Pak Talks

*95. SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV:

SHRI PRAKASH BABU VASANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the recent Indo-Pak talks held on bilateral issues relating to peace, co-operation and friendship treaty, no-war pact and visa facilities to the citizens of both the countries;

(b) whether there is any proposal to have ministerial level talks in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI). (a) While the question of a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation or a no-war pact have not figured in recent bilateral talks between India and Pakistan, discussions on a full implementation of the bilateral visa agreement are continuing.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

Outcome of official level meet of SAARC at Maldives

*96. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the SAARC Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries Meet at Maldives,

(b) whether any decision has been taken on the acceptance of foreign funds for regional development;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made towards regional understanding through SAARC forum?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) An important outcome of the 14th Session of the SAARC Standing Committee at Male was the recommendation to set up a high-level Committee for Economic Cooperation. This should bring the core areas of trade, manufactures, finance and services within the scope of regional cooperation under SAARC for the first time. Another significant recommendation was the setting up of a Technical Committee for Tourism. Both recommendations were accepted by the 9th Session of the Council of Ministers who met immediately after the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee also performed its functions of monitoring and coordination of on-going programmes and budgetary matters.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) SAARC has worked steadily towards increasing regional cooperation and thereby promoting understanding. Its activities have largely centered on technical cooperation through the Integrated Programme of Action, involving training, seminars and workshops and preparation of reports & directories. This has covered diverse areas such as agriculture, meteorology, postal services and tourism. At the Bangalore Summit in 1986, a new dimension involving people to people contact was introduced. The SAARC Audio Visual Exchange Programme was one of the products of this initiative. SAARC is now set to enter into the core areas of regional economic cooperation, involving trade, manufactures, finance and services.